

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 6-12 are withdrawn from consideration, and claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103.

I. Election of Species Requirement

Claims 1-3 and 6-12 are withdrawn from consideration as subject to an Election of Species Requirement.

Applicants again traverse the Election of Species Requirement on the ground that the generic claims are not so broad as to place an undue burden on the Patent Office to search and examine the full scope of the claims. Rather, Applicants respectfully assert that search and examination of the entire application could be conducted without undue burden on the Examiner, thus avoiding delay and expense to Applicants. Applicants further understand, however, that upon search, examination and allowance of the elected species, search and examination will continue as to the non-elected species within the scope of the generic claims.

II. Rejections Under §102 and §103

Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), over Yoshikawa. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claim 4 is directed to an anti-reflection film for a plasma display, comprising: a transparent substrate film, an anti-reflection layer provided on one surface of the transparent substrate film, and an unwanted light shielding layer provided on the other surface of the transparent substrate film, the unwanted light shielding layer comprising: a near infrared rays absorbing layer containing a transparent resin and a near infrared rays absorbing agent that absorbs near infrared rays, contained in the transparent resin, and a specific-wavelength-light absorbing layer laminated to the near infrared rays absorbing layer on the side opposite to the transparent substrate film, containing an adhesive and a coloring

agent for color tone correction that absorbs light with specific wavelengths originating from the emission spectrum of an insert gas of a plasma display, contained in the adhesive. Such an anti-reflection film is nowhere disclosed or taught or suggested in Yoshikawa.

Yoshikawa at least fails to disclose, or to teach or suggest, that the anti-reflection film includes a separate specific-wavelength-light absorbing layer that is laminated to the near infrared rays absorbing layer on the side opposite to the transparent substrate film, as claimed, where this specific-wavelength-light absorbing layer contains an adhesive and a coloring agent for color tone correction that absorbs light with specific wavelengths originating from the emission spectrum of an insert gas of a plasma display. This arrangement of the specific-wavelength-light absorbing layer, and the advantages provided thereby, are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited reference.

Yoshikawa discloses an anti-reflection film for a plasma display. However, the arrangement and composition of the layers in Yoshikawa are different from, and would not have rendered obvious, the claimed invention. In Yoshikawa, there is provided an anti-reflection film 65 for a plasma display that includes an adhesive layer 64. See Fig. 6a and col. 17, lines 12-27. The adhesive layer 64 contains both a near infrared rays absorbing agent and a coloring agent for color tone correction. Col. 18, lines 64-67 and col. 11, lines 19-24. Yoshikawa thus teaches that the light absorbing materials are contained in the same layer, not in two separate, laminated layers as claimed. Yoshikawa thus does not anticipate the claimed invention.

Furthermore, the claimed structure provides significant and unexpected results that are also not taught or suggested by Yoshikawa. In the claimed invention, a separate specific-wavelength-light absorbing layer that is laminated to the near infrared rays absorbing layer on the side opposite to the transparent substrate film that absorbs light with specific wavelengths originating from the emission spectrum of an insert gas of a plasma display, is positioned on

the side opposite to the transparent substrate film. This separate specific-wavelength-light absorbing layer is not part of, but rather is laminated to, the near infrared rays absorbing layer. As a result, these two separated but laminated layers can be provided independently in the process of forming an anti-reflection film for a plasma display.

According to the claimed invention, therefore, the near infrared rays absorbing layer absorbs near infrared rays, but does not have specific properties of transmittance or tone correction. As such, the physical properties of the near infrared rays absorbing layer can be fixed. Instead, if adjustment of the transmittance or color tone correction is required, such changes can be made simply by adjusting the properties of the specific-wavelength-light absorbing layer, without needing to also alter the properties of the near infrared rays absorbing layer. This allows such changes to be easily and safely made, by simply adjusting an outer layer of the structure.

The claimed invention thus allows and provides for easy and secure adjustment of the transmittance and color tone correction properties. This provides the benefit, for example, of allowing multiple different specific-wavelength-light absorbing layers to be prepared with a range of properties, and then the desired or suitable specific layer can be used for a specific application. See, for example, specification at page 6, lines 21-28.

In contrast, Yoshikawa does not provide for easy and secure adjustment of the transmittance and color tone correction properties. In Yoshikawa, adjustment of these properties necessarily affects the near infrared rays absorbing layer. Adjustment of the properties thus also requires adjustment of the near infrared rays absorbing layer. Yoshikawa does not teach or suggest, and provides no reason or rationale for, modifying its unitary structure to instead provide two separate laminated layers, in the manner as claimed.

Yoshikawa thus does not disclose or teach or suggest these features of the claimed invention, and thus does not anticipate and would not have rendered obvious independent

claim 4, or claim 5 dependent therefrom. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejections

The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 4-5 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of co-pending Application No. 10/562,424, and over claims 1-4 of co-pending Application No. 10/569,512. These provisional rejections are respectfully traversed.

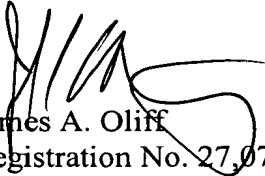
Because co-pending Applications Nos. 10/562,424 and 10/569,512 have not issued, filing a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate a provisional double-patenting rejection is premature. See MPEP §706.02(k). Applicants respectfully request abeyance of the double patenting rejections.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: October 27, 2008

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